

The Maine Farmer: An Agricultural and Family Newspaper.

Maine Farmer.

Augusta, March 24, 1861.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.

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COLLECTORS' NOTICES.

MR. C. S. ALEX. AGENT FOR THE FARMER, WILL CALL UPON OUR SUBSCRIBERS IN LINCOLN COUNTY IN APRIL.

Maine Insane Hospital.

Mysteries have always surrounded insanity. Even the madness of Saul was regarded by his servants as an evil spirit from the Lord which troubled him, and it was believed that he could be restored to health by a cunning player on a harp, who had power to thus charm the evil spirit and make it depart. It has always been conceded that insane people "do not appear to have lost the faculty of reasoning, but group together some ideas very wrongly, they mislead them to truth, and they err as men do that argue right from wrong principles." In the classic age, insanity was looked upon as a sacred disease, and it is impossible to entirely divest this disease of its early and ancient surroundings. It was not until almost the present century, that the insane were any where treated with what now would be termed common humanity. Hospitals have existed since the fourth century, but the only treatment was to confine the patient by chains, or in dungeons, who no medical treatment save blood letting and purging.

It was not until 1792, that the reformation commenced and insane people treated as human beings. It is not to be wondered at, when we consider the mystery that even now surrounds a human being that is bereft of reason, and think of the history of the treatment of this disease, that we are inclined to be credulous and give a willing ear to any tale that may be told of their sufferings, or of the treatment they receive from those whose duty it is to care for them. We know full well the weakness of human nature; we are many of us fretful, petulant and impatient; we know that at times even in the sacred relation of parent, guardian, or friend, we may be harsh, unkind, and possibly cruel in our treatment of those under our natural protection. Is it then unlikely that those who have placed under them the insane, may forget their duty and in moments of passion, provoked by the conduct of the patient, inflict physical punishment upon those, who, under all circumstances should receive only kind words, patient treatment and never a blow.

Hospitals for the Insane are mainly public institutions. In this city we have the Maine Insane Hospital, which is now entering upon the forty-first year of its existence. As late as 1840, the common prisons of our State, furnished the only places where insane people could be confined. In 1843, Governor Dunlap called attention to the advantages "An Insane Hospital would afford," and the legislature of that year appropriated twenty thousand dollars for the establishment of a Hospital, provided a like sum should be raised by individual donations. Reu Williams of this city, and Benjamin Brown of Vassalboro', with a liberality characteristic of their lives, and entitling them to the lasting gratitude of every friend of suffering humanity, contributed, the then prince in sum, ten thousand dollars each, for the object and secured the establishment of this noble institution, which has from time to time been enlarged and upon which, including the rebuilding after the fire of 1849, has been expended by the State some three hundred thousand dollars.

This institution is the child of the State. Every citizen is interested in and concerned in its management. Whatever adds to its reputation, increases the honor and the high character of Maine; whatever tends to bring it into reproach is a blot upon the fair name of our good State. It is to the credit of the people of Maine that they watch this institution with a zealous eye and carefully scrutinize its management. It is by the law carefully guarded; a man agent being in the hands of a Board of Trustees, who are not only the immediate constituents of the Legislature, but the Governor and Council. It is well that every suspicion and rumor against such an institution should be thoroughly investigated, in order that it prove well grounded; he who has attempted to practice cruelty or ushers position for personal ends, should receive public condemnation.

This institution has frequently been investigated. In 1849, many will remember one Hunt—a man a shaker by trade, who had been confined in the hospital and liberated, who travelled through the State on a crusade against the hospital, spreading monstrous stories about the treatment of patients, and thousands of our citizens were credulous to believe they might have some foundation in fact. A thorough investigation proved them groundless and placed the institution still higher in the public estimation. Some thirteen years ago, similar charges were made by a gentleman who had been an inmate and an investigation followed with like results. For some time there have been charges, and investigations made against the management of this Hospital, and the efficiency of its Superintendent. The Trustee's believed it wise to ask of the Legislature a thorough and searching investigation into all the affairs of the hospital. A committee was appointed, consisting of the ablest men in the Legislature, coming from all sections of the State, representing all parties and opinions. These gentlemen made a most patient, thorough, and exhaustive investigation. Every one who knew or suspected aught against the institution, were invited to appear and make known their complaints. The result is most gratifying not only to the officers of the institution, to those connected with its management, but to the people of Maine whose honor and fame is vindicated.

The committee, composed of ten members, with only one dissenting voice, say, "The Maine Insane Hospital stands to-day the peer of the most modern institutions of New England." They pay a high compliment to its management, endorse its officers as men of high character, eminent medical standing, and fine business qualifications, and say in their report to the Legislature, "to the people: your honorable bodies may unhesitatingly command the Maine Insane Hospital, as entirely worthy of confidence and support." This report was unanimously adopted by the Senate and by the House, with only thirteen dissenting voices. It is worthy of note, and in our judgment the highest evidence of absolute faith, in the capacity and confidence of the officers of the hospital, that during this long investigation, covering over a period of more than two months, with ex-parte statements made by all, and with the personal motives to create a belief that would exist, that not a single point was removed from the hospital by friend or trustee. While every breath of suspicion against such an institution should be examined into, and if found to have a basis so far and condign punishment meted out to any who would profit or take

advantage of these poor unfortunate, the State is bound to protect and zealously guard the character and reputation of its faithful officers and upright citizens. No punishment can be too severe for any person who would inflict bodily pain upon or in any way cruelly treat an insane person; but the contempt one feels for a person who would so far forgive his manhood as to brutally treat the insane, rises into abhorrence in comparison for the loathing we should have for a moral assassin, one who seeks for personal ends to trounce and vilify the high character of a citizen, and cause upon inadequate testimony of absolute suffering. One who walks in this character has sunk to the lowest depths of depravity and wickedness, compared to whom the highway robber is a man of honor and the miserable wanton a virtuous woman.

On Friday, Mr. Pendleton called up the organization resolution. Mr. Anthony moved that the resolution be adopted. The vote resulted yes 37, nays 37. Mr. Davis of Illinois voted in the negative with the Democrats. When Mr. Mahone's name was reached he also voted with the Democrats, which excited astonishment, but before the announcement of the vote he rose and changed his vote and some applause and some vigorous cheering. Mead and Edmunds were paired. The Vice President then said, "The vote was evenly divided the chair will vote aye." He therefore declared the motion carried. The Colonel is not able to leave his room owing to rheumatism, but he is in the possession of all his medical faculties and has evidently many years left him on earth. Our readers will remember an accident that occurred over a year ago on State street, when it was alleged that Capt. Thomas Mitchell, a horse ran into a ledge in which was Miss Powers of Hallowell. Miss Powers brought against Captain Mitchell, claiming that he had resulted in a disagreement. It was again tried last week, and resulted in a verdict for Captain Mitchell. The captain's friends and neighbors were delighted with the result of the trial on Saturday evening a large number of them, accompanied by the Augustus, Bell, tended the Captain and his wife with a serenade, and their hearty congratulations. The Captain invited all his friends to his home and entertained his friends in a very hospitable and generous manner. Some two hours were spent in a very agreeable and pleasant way, and many were the sincere congratulations the Captain and his wife received. Mr. J. W. Clapp has disposed of his stock of fancy goods to Mr. Wallace, W. Morse and Mr. W. H. Gannett. These young men are familiar with the business and were well adapted to meet with success. —On Tuesday afternoon a step under the water wheel at the Sprague's cotton mill gave out and caused a suspension of operations for a few hours at the mill. —During the present week a number of beautiful and attractive works of art. The Chapel is open from nine in the morning until nine at night. —At the entertainment given by the Good Templars last Saturday evening, Mr. G. W. Walker of Hallowell, gave some very select character impersonations. —Mr. E. C. Stevens, who has long been well known in the Union, has now been well adapted to meet with success. —On Tuesday afternoon a step under the water wheel at the Sprague's cotton mill gave out and caused a suspension of operations for a few hours at the mill. —During the present week a number of beautiful and attractive works of art. 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Poetry.

Alice Cary's Sweetest Poem.

Of all the beautiful pictures
That hang on Memory's wall,
Is one of a dim old forest;
That is the sweetest of all;
Not for its guarded cake odes,
Nor for its violets golden;
Nor for the bright red berries;
Nor for the blossoms of the boughs;
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I once had a little brother
With eyes that were dark and deep—
In the shade of that old forest;
He had a light, a smile,
Light as the down of the thistle,
As the dew of the morning;
We roved there the beautiful Summers—
And the bright red berries;
Not for the blossoms of the boughs;

between two such rows of teeth, as would shake the nerves of most men.

The scared expression had all gone from her eyes, now, and was replaced by a look of daring, hate and revenge. "You would wonder that he could so change its expression of countenance."

It was evident enough that she intended to take her revenge on board that craft, for her great black barge was coming up out of the water.

It was, while he was driving her threats and almost feeling her hot breath upon his cheek, thought of the old Springfield at his feet, hitherto forgotten. Dropping his now useless revolver behind him, he seized and cracked the rifle just as the bear was coming over him, and drove the bullet into her mouth, putting the trigger.

That shot did the business. Letting go with all four she tumbled into the boat, flung him overboard.

"Now for the cube," said John. They were but a short distance away, making all possible headway for dry land and tall timber.

He was the size of a spaniel dog, "as fat as a cub," they said, looking down upon her even as he would work his head and bite, he was kept alongside.

It would seem an easy task, under circumstances, to get the creature with the anchor, but he had only one hand to work with, and the boat's anchor rope, but it required an hour's hard labor to get the nose to stick.

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